(c) if not, by when the next missile is taking off the ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme, sanctioned by the Government in 1983, envisages development of four Missiles namely PRITHVI, THRISHUL, AKASH and NAG and re-entry technology demonstrator AGNI. Phase of user trials of PRITHVI have been completed. Subsequent activities are being progressed. With three test flights of the technology demonstrator, AGNI project has been succefully completed. The other missiles are in advanced stage of development.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Defence cooperation with Vietnam

7262. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Vietnam, a defence pact was also signed to ensure defence cooperation between India and Vietnamese defence organisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) During the visit of the Prime Minister to Vietnam in September, 1994, an agreement pertaining to defence cooperation was signed with Vietnam. The agreement, which envisages the promotion of bilateral defence relations between the two countries, is in line with Government's policy of establishing and enhancing cooperation in the defence sector, with various friendly countries, including Vietnam. This policy is translated into a measured implementation of various steps involving interaction between two sides.

Scud Missiles with Pakistan

7263. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the 'Pioneer' of October 5, 1994, captioned "Pak may have hundreds of scud missiles" quoting the Director of the Institute of Defence Studies, New Delhi, to the effect that hundreds of scud missiles from the Afgan war surpluses have had their way into Pakistan, making a mockery of the concern expressed by Missile Technology Control Regime; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) and (b) Government is aware of the news-item published in the Pioneer of 5.10.1994. However, there is no authentic information with the Government to suggest that scud missiles left by the Russians in Afghanistan have found their way into Pakistan. It is reported that Pakistan has evinced interest in scud missiles from some foreign sources.

Unprovoked Firing by Pakistani troops

7264. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani troops are resorting to unprovoked firing through heavy artillery and rockets on Indian troops on the Indo-Pak border in Jammu and Kashmir in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof during the last one year with details of losses suffered by Indian troops; and

(c) what retaliatory measures Government propose to take to face the unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops on Indian Army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) and (b) Firing by the Pakistani troops on the Indo-Pak border including the LOC is a regular phenomenon. During the last one year (01 Mar 94 to 31 Mar 95) there were 401 incidents of unprovoked firing by the Pakistani troops on the Indo-Pak border in the State of J&K. Heavy artillery, mortars and rockets are reported to have been used by the Pak troops in these firings, which resulted in some casualties to our troops.

(c) A constant watch is kept on the situation in Indo-Pak border areas and adequate measures are taken to meet any eventuality arising out of such incidents of unprovoked firings etc.

Indo-Pak Defence Consultative Group

7265. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly constituted Indo-UK Defence consultative Group has decided to meet shortly;

(b) if so, the date and the agenda for the meeting;

(c) whether the UN Peace Keeping of each other's security interests and the identification of areas for mutual collaboration is expected to be discussed or not; and

(d) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) to (d) An Indo-UK Defence Consultative Group has been constituted with the aim of providing impetus and continuity to the development of the Defence relationship between the two countries. The first meeting of the group is likely to be held in this year. No dates, or agenda have been identified yet. Topics of mutual interest would be discussed.

Ex-servicemen in Gujarat

7266. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of ex-servicemen residing in Gujarat State as on the 31st March, 1995, district-wise; and

(b) what are the programme being implemented for the welfare and rehabilitation of these ex-servicemen in the State together with the number of ex-servicemen benefited under such programme alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) and (b) As on March 31, 1995, a total of 8,671 ex-servicemen were registered with various Zila Sainik Boards in Gujarat. Zila Sainik Board-wise details of ex-Servicemen is as under:

Zila Sainik Board	No. of Ex-servicemen Registered
Ahmedabad	3304
Jamnagar	2613
Surat	920
Vadodara	1834

There is a comprehensive package of welfare and resettlement measures for the ex-servicemen. The Central Government have provided reservation for ex-servicemen in Groups 'C' and 'D' posts in the Central Government Departments as well as Public Sector Undertakings including the Nationalised Banks. In Para-Military Forces, a reservation of 10% is also provided in the posts of Assistant Commandants. Recruitment in Defence Security Corps is primarily reserved for ex-servicemen. In addition, the Government of Gujarat has provided 10% and 20%